

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-02

H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 AID-05 IO-10 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, ELAB, ET

SUBJECT: SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL TO CONTINUE

REF: (A) ADDIS 1377; (B) ADDIS 0344

1. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF INCONCLUSIVE EFFORTS REACH COMPROMISE ON RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNION AND ESTABLISHMENT COLLECTIVE BARGINING IN SDA HOSPITAL, DOCTORS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF BEGAN DEPART FROM PREMISES AND IT APPEARED CERTAIN HOSPITAL WOULD CLOSE MARCH 31. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIMPLY HAD NO PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO TAKE OVER NOR ALTERNATIVE FOREIGN DONOR SOURCES WHICH COULD PROVIDE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.

2. ON MARCH 31 EPMG CALLED MEETING OF PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND COMPLETELY REVERSED ITSELF FROM FORMER STAND. IT WAS DECREED THAT CONTINUED OPERATION OF SDA HOSPITAL WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN QUALITY MEDICAL SERVICES IN ADDIS, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE TRADE UNION ACTIVITY IN HOSPITAL, THAT ALL WORKERS WOULD FOLLOW ORDERS OF SUPERIORS AND DOCTORS AND THAT EVERYONE WAS RESPONSIBLE TO REESTABLISH HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE IN HOSPITAL.

3. FORTUNATELY MOST OF THE SDA PROFESSIONALS WHO HAD LEFT THE HOSPITAL HAD NOT LEFT THE COUNTRY BUT HAD GONE TO CLINICS IN RURAL AREAS. SDA MISSION WAS THEREFORE ABLE REASSEMBLE STAFF

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OF SIX KEY PERSONNEL. ONE MORE DOCTOR ALREADY RECRUITED IS

BEING CALLED FROM LOS ANGELES AND TWO ADDITIONAL ONES ARE TO BE RE-CRUITED IN ORDER BRING STAFF BACK TO FULL STRENGTH. EVERY ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO REESTABLISH HOSPITAL'S PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

4. EPMG ACTION SURPRISED EVERYONE SINCE PREVIOUS POSITION BASED ON POINTS OF PRINCIPLE (WORKERS' RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN) AND ON LEGALITY OF SDA HOSPITAL WORKERS' UNION UNDER ETHIOPIAN LAW. HOWEVER, FACED WITH REALITY THAT HOSPITAL WOULD CLOSE, THEY TOOK EXPEDIENT COURSE AND WILL ALLOW SDA MISSION TO OPERATE ON ITS OWN TERMS AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST. THIS VICTORY OF PRAGMATISM OVER DOCTRINE MAY RPT MAY BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN IF RIT IF IT INDICATES MORE FLEXIBILITY AND REALISM IN "DIRG" THAN EXHIBITED HERETOFORE.
HUMMEL

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